infrastructure. Some infrastructure has already been put in place and more projects for putting up the infrastructure are in progress.

Central Inland Water Transport Corporation

1895. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Inland Water Transport Corporation (CIWTC) is in losses since its inception in 1967;

(b) whether it is a fact that CIWTC is undertaking transportation of cargo in inland waterways of NW-I and NW-II and also building and repairing riverine ships;

(c) if so, whether it is also a fact that Government have taken a decision to restructure the CIWTC; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and its status of implementation?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) Central Inland Water Transport Corporation (CIWTC) Ltd. undertakes transportation of cargo in National Waterway-1 and National Waterway-2. The Corporation used to undertake shipbuilding and repair of riverine ships through Rajabagan Dockyard (RBD).

The Government has decided *inter alia* to handover Rajabagan Dockyard (RBD) to Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) or to any other Public Sector Enterprises alongwith existing manpower, assets and liabilities and to disinvest CIWTC minus RBD.

As per present status of implementation of above package, Rajabagan Dockyard stands transferred to Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers with effect from 1.7.2006. Action has been initiated by the Department of Shipping to assess the viability of disinvestment of Central Inland Water Transport Corporation with varying employees' strength.

New Nathu La bye-pass

1896. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have opened a new Nathu La bye-pass road;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any road is being constructed for Nathu La;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the necessary arrangements that are being made by Government for Nathu La?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (e) There is no proposal of new Nathu La bypass road. The widening to 2-lane of 56 km existing GS Road from Gangtok to Nathula has been approved by the Government under Phase 'A' of Special Accelerated Road Development Programme for North East (SARDP-NE).

Dredging at Paradip Port

1897. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Paradip port authorities have asked for sanction of revised estimates for dredging work to deepen the navigable channel, etc.

(b) if so, the status thereof; and

(c) the time-frame within which the revised estimates would be sanctioned if not already done?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Paradip Port Trust has sought Government's approval to their Revised Cost Estimate of the Project for Deepening of Channel at Paradip Port. The project is under process for obtaining the requisite approval.

Traffic density on NH-9

1898. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that NH-9 has highest density of vehicular traffic and is ranked No.3 among the National Highways in terms of traffic handling;